Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06387 301554Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

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PR 301335Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5658

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 6387

DEPT PLS PASS USGS, USBURMINES

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EMIN IN

SUBJECT: KUDREMUKH PROJECT

REF: NEW DELHI 3772

1. APRIL 30, 1976 WAS THE NEW DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF BIDS BY THE FOREIGN FIRMS COMPETING FOR THE KUDREMUKH PROJECT. THE DEADLINE WAS ADVANCED FROM APRIL 15. WHILE THE GOI WAS INITIALLY SEEKING SEPERATE COMPANIES FOR THE MINING ASSOCIATES AND ENGINEER CONSTRUCTORS CONTRACTS, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE GOI HAS NOW EXPRESSED INTEREST IN A SINGLE PACKAGE BID FOR THE ENTIRE PROJECT. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE ACTIONS OF KAISER AND MET CHEM (U.S. STEEL OF CANADA) WHICH HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BOTH CONTRACTS DURING THE MARCH NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY CASE. THIS HAS RESULTED IN ARTHUR MCKEE AND PICKLANDS MATHER COMBINING THEIR RESOURCES AND REPORTEDLY LKAB (SWEDEN) JOINING WITH SOFREMINES (FRANCE) IN BIDDING FOR THE ENTIRE KUDREMUKH CONTRACT. EVALUATION OF THE BIDS BY MECON IS TO BEGIN AFTER MAY 1. HOWEVER, UNTIL THE BIDS HAVE BEEN FULLY SCRUTINIZED BY THE GOI, FOLLOWED BY SOME HARD NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FIRMS IN QUESTIN, WE ARE UNLIKELY TO KNOW THE OUTCOME BEFORE AT LEAST THE END OF MAY OR EARLY JUNE.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 06387 301554Z

2. THE GOI HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A KUDREMUKH

COMPANY TO OVERSEE THIS PROJECT, BUT LITTLE IS
KNOWN OF ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE TO DATE EXCEPT THAT ITS
CHAIRMAN WILL RANK EQUAL TO SAIL'S (STEEL AUTHORITY
OF INDIA LIMITED) AND THEREFORE WILL MOST LIKELY BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL. IT IS TO BE
MANAGED BY A BOARD OF THIRTEEN DIRECTORS INCLUDING A CHAIRMAN WITH
HEADQUARTERS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN BANGALORE.SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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